

FW: Updated Twin Cities Hot Sites -- Freeway, Reilly, General Mills

Nguyen, Giang Van

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To: Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>; Tanaka, Joan <Tanaka.Joan@epa.gov>; Mcseveney, Megan <mcseveney.megan@epa.gov>;

Cc: Fischer, Timothy <Fischer.Timothy@epa.gov>; Evison, Leah <evison.leah@epa.gov>;

Hello all,

Below is the updated write-ups for the Freeway Landfill, Reilly Tar & Chemical and General Mills sites.

Regards,

Giang-Van Nguyen
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA, Region 5
(312) 886-6726

Issue: EPA Supports State Efforts to Clean Up Freeway Landfill Superfund Site – Burnsville

Messages:

- EPA supports the state's efforts to enforce RCRA post-closure care solid waste permit requirements for landfill gas and groundwater monitoring at Freeway Landfill.
- The landfill will likely need further remediation work, such as a new cap. This work will be done under either the state's Closed Landfill Program or the federal Superfund program.
- Since the site is a National Priorities List Superfund site, it is not eligible for federal brownfields funding.

Background/Status: The Freeway Landfill is a 140-acre closed landfill in Burnsville. It is located on the bank of the Minnesota River and is bordered by an interstate highway to the east, a large active limestone quarry to the south, and a privately owned operating landfill (the Burnsville Landfill) to the west. The Freeway Landfill accepted municipal solid waste from about 1970 to 1990 under a state RCRA solid waste permit.

Freeway Landfill is both listed on the NPL and subject to state solid waste post-closure care permit requirements. The landfill is eligible to enter the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Closed Landfill Program and in that case, the state is responsible for proper closure and maintenance. However, the owner has been unwilling to enter

that program and this site is the only eligible closed landfill not in the state program, despite multiple attempts by MPCA.

MPCA is currently enforcing post-closure care requirements of the solid waste permit that require additional monitoring wells and methane gas probes. The large quarry operating south of the landfill is pumping billions of gallons of water a year for dewatering purposes, which captures and dilutes groundwater from under the landfill and prevents it from flowing to the river. The city of Burnsville and neighboring Savage receive treated quarry water. Burnsville is concerned about the potential impacts to drinking water should the quarry stop pumping and the water table rises to the level of the unlined landfill. Additionally, the state and EPA are concerned that when the quarry pumping stops, sometime in the distant future, groundwater impacted by the landfill will resume its flow to the river.

In 2012, MPCA issued an Administrative Order to R.B. McGowan Co. (owner of Freeway Landfill) requiring new monitoring wells and methane gas probes. Since then the state has been attempting to get the company to comply with the order. On April 23, 2014, McGowan notified MPCA of plans to substantially comply with the order. MPCA approved a work plan for installation of new monitoring wells and gas probes on May 21, 2014. The new monitoring wells at the landfill will help provide more information on the site's hydrogeology and are expected to be installed in the next few months. Work will be overseen by MPCA.

Burnsville officials and others envision redeveloping the area of the landfill and incorporating it into the Minnesota Greenway and Recreational Trail, but that cannot happen until the landfill is properly closed and maintained to meet environmental standards. Burnsville officials also hope landfill waste could be recycled to reduce the chances for groundwater contamination. To ensure that any use of neighboring property is protective, in 2011 MPCA prepared a Land Use Plan designating areas that could potentially be impacted by landfill gas and/or leachate. In 2011, EPA sent a letter to Burnsville supporting the proposed zoning changes to implement land use recommendations provided by MPCA.

EPA and MPCA have scheduled a conference call for June 12 to discuss the State's plan for progress at the site.

Press Interest: EPA received a press inquiry from a reporter from the *Center for Investigative Reporting* regarding this site. After determining that her chief concern was the length of time it has taken for the State to make progress at this Site, we referred her to the appropriate MPCA contacts. We expect that conversation to happen the week of June 9.

Contacts: Tom Short, SFD, 312-353-8826, short.thomas@epa.gov

Issue: EPA Demands Improved Gradient Control at Reilly Tar & Chemical Superfund Site – St. Louis Park

Messages:

- EPA is working with the city of St. Louis Park to improve control of the groundwater plume to better protect neighboring communities of Edina and Hopkins.
- EPA officials believe that the groundwater plume from the Reilly Tar Superfund Site is not being adequately contained in the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer.

Background/Status: This February, EPA notified the responsible party (Vertellus Specialties Inc.) of a failure to perform the remedy at the Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (St. Louis Park Plant) Superfund site. The city of St. Louis Park is implementing the remedy for Vertellus under a consent decree with EPA and the state. EPA and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency officials believe the contaminated groundwater plume is inadequately

monitored and is not being captured in the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer. This is the major drinking water aquifer for St. Louis Park and surrounding communities. Contaminant concentrations are rising in public drinking water wells of neighboring Edina in this aquifer and have twice exceeded conservative warning levels in the CD. The levels in Edina wells remain far below MCLs. Affected drinking water wells in the city of St. Louis Park are being treated successfully.

On May 1, 2014, the city of St. Louis Park submitted a draft gradient control plan that also includes a proposal for new monitoring wells to serve as early warning of any additional plume movement toward neighboring Edina and Hopkins. On May 27, 2014, EPA and MPCA jointly disapproved the draft plan and transmitted specific requirements for improvement.

The City of St. Louis Park has also requested a modification of the consent decree to update the drinking water criteria. EPA agrees and is in the process of referring the matter to the Department of Justice. Minnesota is also in the process of developing new health-based levels for several contaminants present at the site.

Contacts: Tim Fischer, SFD, 312-886-5787; Tom Nash, ORC, 312-886-0552, nash.thomas@epa.gov

Issue: Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Continues at General Mills Site -- Minneapolis

- Message:

- EPA provides technical assistance for the vapor mitigation ongoing at the General Mills Superfund site.
- The state oversees the work done by General Mills and conducts extensive community involvement.
- General Mills has installed vapor mitigation systems at 102 houses so far.

Background/Status: In December 2013, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency notified the public that sub-slab sampling at the General Mills/Henkel Corp. Superfund site in Minneapolis showed contaminant concentrations in vapor that exceed health-based screening levels. Since then, General Mills has installed vapor mitigation systems for 102 houses under MPCA oversight and expects to install systems in about 50 more houses and potentially several commercial buildings. MPCA has implemented an extensive community involvement plan. TCE contamination in groundwater is the cause of the vapor problem. EPA does not have a direct role in overseeing the actions since this is a state-lead site, but EPA does offer technical support when requested by MPCA. EPA is also assisting with MPCA's five-year review of the groundwater remedy.

Contact: Tom Short, SFD, 312-353-8826, short.thomas@epa.gov

Leah Evison
U.S. EPA Region 5 Superfund Division
Remedial Project Manager
stationed at
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
evison.leah@epa.gov
651-757-2898